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Goldwater's Comments On The CIA Show That He Hasn't Changed Much

During his 1964 campaign for the presidency, Barry Goldwater said a good many things that made his supporters wince, but nothing he stated then was sillier than his comments earlier this week on the CIA.

The former Arizona Senator is, no doubt about it, a firm champion of the Central Intelligence Agency and the role it plays abroad. But he yields to no one on the doctrine of conservatism, and perhaps it was in character for him last Sunday, on the CBS "Face The Nation" program, to ask plaintively what in Tophet the CIA was doing financing left-wing student groups but ignoring such eminent right-wing organizations as the Young Republicans.

We have to assume here that Mr. Goldwater was serious and not making a funny. To him, leftwingers and Communists are practically synonymous, and he resented

spreading the taxpayers' money around within the American Newspaper Guild and other radical elements to "finance Socialism in America."

Someone must have tipped off Mr. Goldwater by now why the CIA made funds available to the Guild and the National Student Association and assorted labor unions, but in case they haven't he ought to be told. The Young Republicans, it hardly needs to be said, are not persona grata with leftwingers and Marxists. But those aided by the CIA do have contacts with them, the information they obtain can be valuable, and the leftists criticized by Goldwater were in a position to present the U. S. side of world issues and counteract Communist propaganda. So the money was well spent, and if America is headed for Socialism Mr. Goldwater will have to grin and bear it with the rest of us.